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# Bounty hunter says Vesco tried to assassinate him

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WASHINGTON — The bounty hunter who helped bring rogue CIA agent Edwin Wilson to justice and is involved in a scheme to bring Robert Vesco back to the U.S., says the fugitive financier's agents tried to assassinate him.

Ernest Keiser said two gunmen ambushed him outside a suburban Washington restaurant Sunday night as he carried a briefcase containing a dossier on Vesco.

"They kept shouting 'Give it to us. Give it to us,'" he said.

Keiser said they pulled the briefcase from his

hand, then one of the men stuck a gun in his back and fired.

"Luckily, I moved and they only got me in the right side," he said. "I collapsed and they got away."

"It was dark and raining and I didn't get a very good look at them."

Keiser said he had no proof Vesco was behind the attack, but he added:

"This definitely was not a mugging."

"What I know for sure is that I had a package of documents and now they are gone."

"Each and every time someone comes close to capturing Vesco, he is warned and slips out of it."

Keiser, a 65-year-old

former New York businessman, helped lure ex-CIA agent Edwin Wilson from Libya to face trial and jail in the U.S.

Keiser told The Post his latest cloak-and-dagger operation with the government and a "private organization" was to get Vesco, 49, who fled the U.S. 13 years ago.

Last year, Vesco was said to be in Norman's Cay, a small island in the Bahamas, where he allegedly was trafficking in drugs.

Vesco and 20 others are charged with misappropriating \$224 million from Investors Overseas Services, which enjoyed considerable growth before it went bankrupt.

Keiser, who was once marked for assassination by Wilson, was asked if he thought Wilson may have ordered a revenge killing from his prison cell.

"Everything is possible," he said. "But this I doubt."

Wilson is serving a 32-year prison sentence for conspiring to send weapons and explosives to Libya of Libyan agents.

While awaiting trial in New York, prosecutors said, Wilson tried to get a fellow inmate to help find a "hit man" for a \$1 million "package deal" to kill Keiser, five prosecution witnesses and two Justice Dept. prosecutors.